LEVEL ONE

*Suddenly*
*from heaven*
*there came a sound*
*like the rush of a violent*
*wind, and it filled*
*the entire house*
*where they were sitting*
*Acts 2:2*


# Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Volume 24 Number 5* *May 2007*


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## Men Gather To Learn and Worship

**by Ron Sailer, Synod Council Member and Volunteer LMM Men's Task Force—Chair**

On March 24 Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Marysville hosted the Region 1 Lutheran Men in Mission Mini-Gathering. More than 200 men representing 20 congregations from the synods of Northwest Washington, Southwestern Washington, Eastern Washington/Idaho and Oregon gathered to hear our featured speaker Dr. Rollie Martinson. Dr. Rollie Martinson is the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

*Attendees gather for worship.*

Dr. Martinson's presentations *Calling Men in Christian Service in Home and Congregation* and *Engaging Young Men's Life and Faith* were right on the mark. His point was that men,

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## Men Gather To Learn and Worship

on an individual basis, need to address the problem of calling men into Christian service in the home and in the congregation. We have far too many young men being raised in a single-parent family or with their fathers not present in the home, for any number of reasons.

Dr. Martinson stated that each of us can become a mentor, a coach, a big brother and/or a role model to young men who are in our very own social circles. It could be a family member, a kid in the neighborhood or a boy in our classroom.

Our morning and afternoon workshops covered a wide range of topics: *How to Start or Improve a Music Ministry, Service/Mission Ministries, Growing Men's Bible Studies, Men's Ministries in Small Groups and Smaller Churches*, and *Raising Kids & Grand Kids Unexpectedly.*

The Rev. Chris Boerger led a Bible study. For more information about men's ministry here in our synod visit http://ourmim.org/. And, of course, there is the ELCA men's ministry page at www.elca.org/lmm.

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*Permission is granted for congregations to copy* Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

# The Spirit

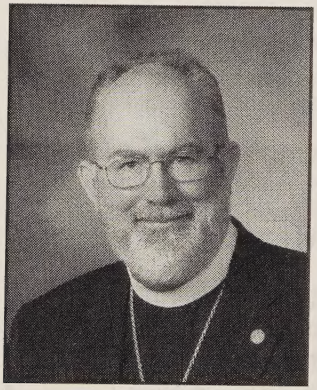
Volume 24, Number 5

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2007


## Our Faith Response To God's Love

### by The Reverend Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



We believe that in Christ we have been made new creatures. We know that we are both sinner and saint at the same time, but we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us now into living the life that God intends for us and for the world in which we serve.

I say this because I regularly hear that individuals relate to congregations based on what they will get out of that relationship. I also hear congregations relating to the synod based on what the congregation will get out of that relationship.

It is true that we should be vigilant with our relationships that involve time and money telling me that God expects me to give to their pet project. I know that I am called to work together with sisters and brothers in Christ to support work that we cannot do as individuals, as individual congregations or synods.

We live in the mission field. As the giving to the churchwide organization has remained at essentially the same dollar level since 1988, synods and local congregations are being asked to help fund new mission starts. This synod has set aside or used proceeds from the sale of closed congregations and gifts from estates to designate close to $950,000 for new congregations or renewal of existing congregations. We need to find new sources of income to do all of the work needed in this area over the next 5-10 years.

We expect the synod to work with

# Plans for 2007 Synod Assembly Change

The synod's Task Force for the Nomination and Election of a Bishop has announced that the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger is the only nominee who will stand for election at the 2007 Synod Assembly to be held June 1-2 at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood. (Please note that the Assembly has been changed from a three-day to a two-day Assembly.)

The period for nominating candidates closed February 28. At that time, the eligible candidates who did not decline the nomination were the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger and the Rev. Victor Langford. Subsequent to announcing the slate of nominees, Langford withdrew himself from the process. While there is only one nominee being presented to the Synod Assembly, the election process will continue as designed, including a forum and an election ballot. (Please note that the candidates forums for May 5 and 6 have been cancelled.)

Complete information on the nomination and election process is posted on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org.

Questions can be directed to the Task Force at bishopelection@lutheransnw.org, or contact Larry Johnson, Synod Vice President, at 425-226-6629, or Mary Beth Short, Task Force Chair, at 253-854-4438.

# Men Gather To Learn and Worship

## by Ron Sailer, Synod Council Member and Volunteer LMM Men's Task Force

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Our morning and afternoon workshops covered a wide range of topics: How to Start or Improve a Music Ministry, Service/Mission Ministries, Growing Men's Bible Studies, Men's Ministries in Small Groups and Smaller Churches, and Raising Kids & Grand Kids Unexpectedly. The Rev. Chris Boerger, Bishop, led a Bible study. For more information about men's ministry here in our synod visit http://ourmim.org/. The ELCA men's ministry page is at www.elca.org/lmm.

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Olson Baalson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

Dr. Martinson's presentations *Calling Men in Christian Service in Home and Congregation* and *Engaging Young Men's Life and Faith* were right on the mark. His point was that men, on an individual basis, need to address the problem of calling men into Christian service in the home and in the congregation. We have far too many young men being raised in a single-parent family or with their fathers not present in the home, for any number of reasons.

(ELCA), is intended for members, leaders, and clergy of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy ***The Spirit*** and include it in their own newsletters. ***The Spirit*** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

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Information for the June-July 2007 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, May 2.

what they are doing with the money we entrust into their care. We, those who focus on Synod work, should never hesitate to report where your gifts are spent and where we are working together in the name of our Lord. The Synod Finance Committee, Synod Council and our Synod Treasurer are responsible for using your benevolences in the ways we have agreed upon through the budget process. The fact remains that there is more to do than current funding allows, so decisions of priority are always before us.

The notion that we share our finances with the synod or the churchwide organization based on what we get back is poor theology.

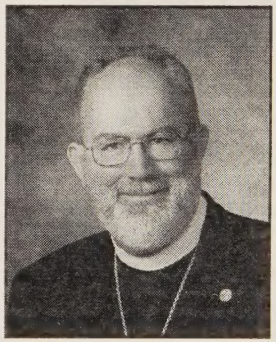
We give because God has given everything to us. We are stewards of those gifts, but they still belong to God. I would be skeptical of someone

are hearing increased requests for support of congregations in the areas of youth and education. Worship is often a topic for questions and referrals. I have proposed the addition of a staff position to help us network the gifts of the synod with the needs of the congregations. This has not happened as our flat giving patterns actually move us toward reduction, not expansion of ministry.

We love because God first loved us. We give because God gave life, new life and hope to us. None of this is investment, it is stewardship. We work together because God has called us together in God's church as congregations, synods and denominations. Our stewardship and benevolence practice is part of our faith response.

# A Word From The Bishop

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. "
2 Timothy 3:14-15 NRSV



The Reverend
Wm Chris Boerger

St. Paul's instructions to Timothy set a good example for us. It assumes that we have learned the scriptures in childhood. We live in an age when that cannot be assumed. We who know the scripture and those of us who are new to learning the scriptures need to be intentional in our study and mutual sharing of God's Word.

I say this because of two initiatives that are coming to us. The first is a result of our synod assembly action setting aside funds for lay theological education. A Synod Task Force is presenting to the Synod Council a proposal that will establish a three-pronged approach to this issue:

1. A grant process for congregational education programs
2. Communication through the synod's website and calendar about programs from other educational providers.
3. An *Educating for Discipleship* program that will provide classes that can be taken individually or in series for personal growth.

All of these efforts are designed to build up the individual members of our synod/congregations as followers of Jesus. Beyond that, they are based on the understanding that today's believer, like the believers of all ages, needs to be equipped in their knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Basic Bible study is essential for our life together. We are the denomination that grew out of the translation of the Bible into the language of the people.

This leads to the second initiative that will be coming from the churchwide organization as a result of the adoption of a memorial at the 2005 Orlando assembly. A five-year initiative on Scripture and the Word of God called *Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible* will be presented to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. The goal of this effort is to increase biblical fluency and increase our appreciation of Lutheran principles and approaches for the use of scripture.

I want to commend both of these initiatives to you and the members of this synod. We have in scripture the word of life. It will change us and our world as we wrestle with it and with God's call to us through this study. I believe it is what we should be about in these changing times.

# Synod Assembly 2007

**by Carla Berg, Chair, 2007 Synod Assembly Commitee**

synodassembly@lutheransnw.org

**Happy Easter.** ***Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!***

During this very busy time during the church year, Assembly planning continues in earnest. There has been a major change in scheduling of which you should all be aware.

The Assembly has been shorted by one day and will now be held on Friday, June 1 (beginning with registration at 10 a.m.) and through Saturday, June 2, with a festival-style worship closing the Assembly at 5 p.m.. We will celebrate and share together over heavy hors d'oeuvres and musical accompaniment on Friday evening. Between times of worship and many other orders of business, we will be honoring 100 years of service for the Lutheran Campus Ministries. Information on workshop topics will follow in a future issue of Soundings.

Our Keynote Speaker is David Lose, Academic Dean at Luther Seminary and recipient of the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching. Lose is the author of *Confessing Jesus Christ*, which was named one of the "Top 10 Books of 2004" by the Academy of Parish Clergy. David will be speaking both Friday and Saturday. You can find more information about David Lose at www.luthersem.edu and will have the opportunity to meet him following his speech on Saturday.

Please do follow up with your congregations as to the status of their thematic banners and let me know if there are any outstanding questions. The banners will tie into our theme: *Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks Be to God!* The banners must measure no larger than 3'x6' and no smaller than 2'x5' and must run vertically as opposed to horizontally (meaning the shorter measurement runs along the top and bottom) and only need to be one-sided. I am very excited to see what your talented Liturgical Arts and other groups have come up with! The banners will a major focal point in our meeting and greeting areas and will provide a warm welcome to our voting members and their visitors.

For those interested in hosting a Display Table, information is available on the Synod website and by contacting our Committee Chairs for Global Missions and Display Coordination, Peter and Jane Shen at peter.shen@elca.org.

Ushers, greeters and registration assistants are still needed – if you or someone in your congregation has gifts to share, please let me know. You may contact me directly at synodassembly@lutheransnw.org

Peace be with you.

# Nomination Period for Bishop's Election Closed

**by Mark J. Jackson**
**Task Force for the Nominations and Election of a Bishop**

The synod's Task Force for the Nominations and Election of a Bishop has announced that the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger is the only nominee who will stand for election at the Synod Assembly, held June 1-2 in Lynnwood. The candidate's Nominee Response Form can be accessed at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2007/bishop-election.asp.

The period for nominating candidates closed February 28. At that time, the eligible candidates who did not decline the nomination were the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger and the Rev. Victor Langford. Subsequent to announcing the slate of nominees, Rev. Langford withdrew himself from the process. While there is only one nominee being presented to the Synod Assembly, the election process will continue as designed, including a question-and-answer forum and an election ballot. (Please note that the candidates forums for May 5 and 6 have been cancelled.)

Complete information on the nomination and election process is posted on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org. Please do not contact the Synod Office with inquiries regarding the nominations and election process. Questions can be directed to bishopelection@lutheransnw.org, or contact Larry Johnson, Synod Vice President, at 425-226-6629, or Mary Beth Short, Task Force Chair, at 253-854-4438.

**Please note that the candidates forums scheduled for May 5 and 6 have been cancelled.**

# Coaching 101

The Coaching 101 workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, and Thursday, June 14. Check the Synod Calendar at www.lutheransnw.org for updated information.

Join others on June 13-14 for the training class *Coaching 101: The Goal of Coaching Is To Help Someone Exceed*. The event will be held at Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way.

Participants will learn that by coaching you will disciple members, empower leadership in congregations and much more. Trainers for the event are Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, and Rev. Valinda Morse, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southwestern Washington Synod.

Cost is $180 and includes meals, lodging and materials. Please visit www.lutheransnw.org/calendar for more information.

# Bishops Meet with Members of Congress

## on Immigration Reform

Excerpt from ELCA News Release Dated 4/2

For the full release please visit www.elca.org/news/releases.asp

Several synod bishops of the ELCA urged their members of Congress and key congressional staff March 22 to enact comprehensive immigration reform in 2007 that is *humane and for the common good.*

Specifically, the bishops emphasized that comprehensive immigration reform legislation must:

- protect and unite families
- protect human rights and worker rights
- end marginalization
- provide a path to permanence and eventual citizenship

Key components that the bishops believe help to fulfill these principles include: elimination of the family visa backlogs; fair and humane enforcement provisions and the elimination of the unnecessary detention of families and children; earned legalization of the nation's 10 million undocumented people; a future worker visa program to meet the economy's employment needs; and a path to permanent residence and eventual citizenship for those who earn legalization or receive temporary work visas and who choose to be permanent members of communities.

"The Lutheran bishops are united in their resolve not only to *welcome the stranger* but to embrace the worlds, cultures, issues and gifts they bring with them," said the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod. "What kind of community will emerge in this changed, global world? This spiritual conversation was at the heart of our conversations with our leaders in Congress, and undergirds a vision for comprehensive reform of immigration policy which takes seriously both our need for security and the well-being of families who are our new neighbors."

Information about comprehensive immigration reform can be found at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services at www.lirs.org or on the ELCA website at www.ELCA.org/advocacy/issues/immigration.

# Volunteer

## at Churchwide Assembly

The Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA will be held at Navy Pier in Chicago, August 6-12, 2007.

A thousand volunteers are needed to greet guests at the airport, assist with registration, serve as pages in the assembly hall, usher, assist with transportation, monitor the assembly hearing rooms and in countless other ways. Please sign up at www.mcselca.org under *Highlights*, or at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly page at www.elca.org/assembly.

A list of frequently asked questions is also online at http://www.elca.org/assembly/. If you have questions about volunteering, email ELCA2007@gmail.com.

## Celebrate Earth Day

Celebrating and caring for the earth is the theme of a three-week series of activities at St. John United Lutheran in Seattle.

Beginning April 22 with Planet Earth Sunday, the congregation will gather after worship for a *Blessing of the Community Garden* which produces fruits, vegetables and flowers for their Soup Kitchen. At 7 p.m. on Friday, April 27, there will be a free public showing of *Who Killed the Electric Car*, in the church Fellowship Hall. Neighborhood residents Jeremy Smithson and Pamela Burton will be bringing their electric car and answering questions after the showing.

On Sunday, May 6, dozens of community organizations with a concern for the environment have been invited to set-up information tables and displays on the church lawn, alongside Phinney Avenue across from the west entrance to the Zoo. *The Earth Care Fair*, which will run from noon until 4 p.m., will also feature music and activities for children.

For more information about any of these activities call 206-784-1040 or check our web site, www.stjohnunited.org. The events will all take place at St. John United, 5515 Phinney Ave. North, Seattle.

## Parish Nurse Event

An course called *Basic Parish Nurse Preparation* is being offered July 8 through 14 at Northwest University by the Puget Sound Health Ministries (PSHM), formerly Puget Sound Parish Nurse & Health Ministries.

Theory, theology, practical skills and resources to create or expand a Faith Community Health Ministry are offered in this program. Expert facilitators train nurses to reclaim the healing ministry of Jesus, combining it with public health principles to serve their congregations.

Early registration with a $75 non-refundable fee is encouraged to hold a place in this course. Registration fee is applied to the total tuition of $500 covering books, materials, pin, certificate of completion and CEU's. For more information visit www.pugetsoundparishnurse.org.

## TV Eucharist

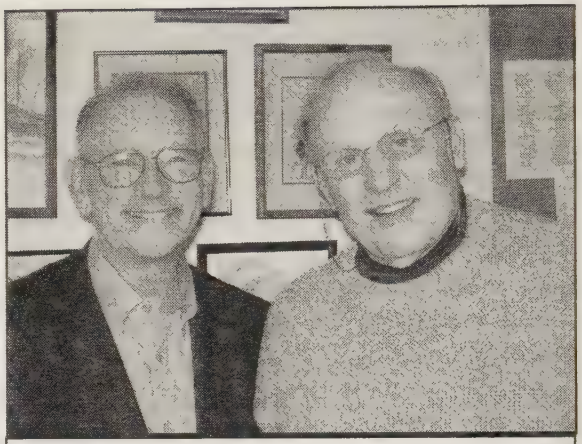
***TV Eucharist*** has been on the air for more than 34 years. It is principally designed for those who are homebound and unable to worship. It is a production of KING Television in cooperation with the churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and of the Northwest Washington Synod for those who are shut-in or otherwise unable to attend church.

Pastor John Lindsey of the Lutheran Church in the San Juans was one of the leaders in February. On Easter Sunday the Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, was the leader. You can watch TV Eucharist on KONG-TV 16 on Sunday mornings at 5 a.m. For more information about the program visit www.tveucharist.org

## Pastor Thom Wert

**by Pastor Paul Shoup**

Pastor Thom Wert, Chaplain at Columbia Lutheran Home in Seattle has accepted the appointment by Bishop Boerger to be the Synodical Representative for Ministries in Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling and Clinical Education (MCPCCE) for the Northwest Washington Synod.



*Pastor Thom Wert and Pastor Paul Shoup.*

Pastor Wert served in Canada before coming to Columbia Lutheran in August of 1996. He was Endorsed by the Lutheran Church in 1997 and certified by APC in 1997. Some of the responsibilities of Synodical Representatives are to work with the bishop's office in matters of Endorsement, synod calls to specialized settings, accountability, and connections with relevant synod committees. For anyone interested in pursuing serving in a specialized setting, contact Pastor Wert at Columbia Lutheran Home.

An interesting note about the changing of times is that Pastor Wert was called to be the Chaplain in 1996 and his position has evolved over the years. He is now in charge of Spiritual Care and Social Work. We welcome Pastor Wert into this additional responsibility.

## Synod Leadership Conference

Last year's conference, *Making Team Work*, was so well received that the Northwest Washington Synod Leadership Support Committee will sponsor its second conference, *Conflicts & Community: A Practical Workshop for Church Staffs.* The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (tentative) on Thursday, August 30, at the Lynnwood Convention Center.

Those attending last year's conference expressed a wish for time together with their co-workers to discuss practical steps for addressing conflict and working well together. The conference will include informational and book displays. Please look for more information on the conference in future *Soundings*, on the Synod's website and through the mail.

## Pastor Joel Installed

The Rev. Joel Lohafer was installed at Hope Lutheran Church in Lynden on March 25, 2007.

Many pastors in the Whatcom cluster attended the installation along with several ecumenical partners underscoring the history of interdenominational and interfaith work of the congregation. Pastor Gary Grafwallner challenged the congregation to be in the community in ministry to the least, the lost, and the lonely as well as a witness in the world where parochialism and self centeredness dominate.

The congregation joyfully received Pastor Lohafer and his wife, Anne and their three children.

## Helping Others Around The World

Congratulations. With an incredible outpouring of support for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal in 2006 we met the challenge: more than $20 million was raised for ELCA World Hunger with a grand total of $25 million including ELCA Disaster response.

Congregations and individuals in the Northwest Washington Synod strongly supported the World Hunger and Disaster Appeal by giving $407,697 in 2006, an increase of more than 21 percent over 2005. This translates to $7.87 per baptized member in our synod. (The total dollar amount includes gifts that were received via the synod and those that were sent to Chicago directly.)

ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response has a well-deserved reputation for *being there for the long haul*. Our generous gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response/South Asian Tsunami and ELCA Domestic Disaster Response/Gulf Coast Hurricanes are funding multi-year recovery efforts.

Through undesignated giving we are in Florida after Hurricanes Dennis and Wilma. We are along the Pakistan-India border after the earthquake. We are in Wisconsin and Indiana after tornados. We are in Niger, Ethiopia, Sudan, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, China....

Kristie Neklason is our Synod's contact person. If you would like to learn more about what we are doing in the synod to fight World Hunger please contact Kristie at worldhunger@lutheransnw.org or 206-932-9743. For more information about the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response visit www.elca.org/

# Consider A Gift Of Stock

**by David Swartling, Director, Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium of Western Washington**

Looking for a wonderful way to energize your congregation's endowment fund? Consider giving an appreciated asset like common stock – such a gift can be a win-win transaction.

For example, if you purchased 100 shares of Macrohard 20 years ago for $1000 and watched it increase in value so that it is now worth $11,000, you have a golden opportunity to make a significant gift to your congregation's mission endowment fund. If you sell your stock, you'll have to pay capital gains tax on $10,000. If you give the stock to your congregation's mission endowment fund, however, you will be able to take a charitable income deduction of the entire amount. No capital gains **and** a tax deduction.

So don't liquidate that stock without considering what it can do for the endowment fund. Consider such a "*legacy gift*" as part of your personal stewardship.

*Editor's Note: To contact David Swartling telephone 206-233-8178 or email at dswartling@mms-seattle.com.*

# Update

**ELCA Board of Pensions**

- ***Follow The Road To Emmaus***—This Easter season (April - May 26) walk the road to Emmaus with God by your side and reflect on the need for balance in your life. For a guide visit www.elcabop.org/Home/LiveWell/Road_to_emmaus.aspx.
- **New 2008 Wellness Plan** —Since 2002, we have been encouraging members to live whole, healthier lives. This year, we're proposing our biggest wellness step yet. Pending Church Council approval, 2008 plan members receiving Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Benefits will be rewarded financially for pursuing health and wellness. Visit www.elcabop.org/UnderstandMyBenefits/plan_changes.aspx
- **EmbodyHealth Website Now Available**—The newly redesigned web portal, *Mayo Clinic EmbodyHealth*, is live and offers authoritative health information and interactive health tools. Visit www.elcaforwellness.org.
- **New Billing System**—As we approach the implementation of our new billing system, please know administrative changes are coming to help your employees receive accurate retirement contributions (employer, member pretax and housing equity) and eliminate amounts not expected on your billing statement due to retroactive adjustments to retirement contributions. Look for more information about these changes in an upcoming billing statement.
- **Tax Information**—Find information and links to tax resources at www.elcabop.org/UnderstandMyBenefits/About_your_taxes.aspx

## An Evening With Author Anne Lamott

St. Luke's Lutheran in Bellevue is grateful to announce a speaking engagement with Anne Lamott, on the evening of Friday, May 11. In celebration of the congregation's 50th anniversary they are hosting *An evening with Anne Lamott* with proceeds going to World Hunger Relief.

Best-selling Author of *Tender Mercies, Operating Instructions* and *Bird by Bird* Anne is dearly loved by her readers. In all her novels, Anne writes about subjects that begin with capital letters – Alcoholism, Motherhood and Jesus. She is armed with self-effacing humor and is laugh-out-loud funny – and ruthlessly honest. The evening will include a speaking presentation, questions and answers and a book signing. Her new book, *(Eventually): Thoughts on Faith,* will be available for sale by Elliot Bay Bookstore in the narthex.

Tickets are available at two price levels – General Admission $65 and a limited amount of front row seating, including an autographed copy of her new book, available for $125. This will be an evening you won't want to miss. Please contact the church office at 425-822-7907 for tickets.

## Being The Church in the Pacific Northwest

**Annual Summer Theological Conference**

The Annual Summer Theological Conference will be held June 18 - 20 at Dumas Centre in Federal Way. The theme this year is *Being the Church in the Pacific Northwest: Delving Into Identity and Ministry in the place.*

Speakers are Dr. Samuel Torvend, Associate Professor and Chair of the Religion Department at PLU; Dr. Patricia O'Connell Killen, provost and dean of graduate Studies at PLU; the Rev. Martin Wells, bishop of Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod; Dr. Dale Soden, professor of History at Whitworth College in Spokane; Dave Ross, radio talk show host on KIRO 710; and the Rev. Susan Burchfield, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Seattle.

Workshop presenters are the Rev John Rosenberg, Director of LENS; the Rev. Melissa Skelton, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church; and Salmon Nation Clergy Group from Oregon.

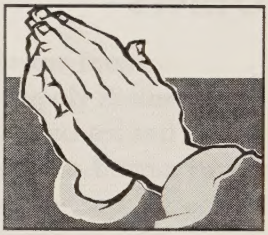
Cost is $450/per person (if postmarked by May 1) or $500/per person after May 1. There is a commuter fee of $350/per person if postmarked by May 1 or $400/per person after May 1. Registration includes workshops, meals and housing (if not commuting). Scholarships are available for leaders of small congregations. Contact Rev. Julie Josund, congregation relations, at josundjm@plu.edu.

For more information about registration contact PLU Congregation Relations at 253-535-7423 or visit www.plu.edu/~crel/.

# News and Notes

- In December **Ruth and Ken Helling** were honored at Queen Anne Lutheran in Seattle for all their years of work in promoting and arranged for the LWR InGatherings for more than 32 years. Ken always arranged for the Seattle loadings and Ruth has made a quilt a week, 52 a year, for a total of more than 2,000. Thank you to both of them for their ministry.
- **Potlatch!** A Fundraising Dinner and Auction to celebrate Faith-Based Advocacy in Washington and benefit the ministry of Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, at University Christian Church, 4731 15th Avenue NE in Seattle (Free Parking!) In the spirit of Potlatch, this dinner is a gift to you who give generously to the LPPO. RSVP was April 18. We'd love to have you attend the festivities so please contact David Coombs at 206-464-4133 or davidrcoombs@gmail.com.
- **"Mom, I'm too old for Vacation Bible School!"** Trinity Lutheran in Lynnwood is introducing *Camp 56: An Alternative for kids finishing 5th and 6th grade.* Camp 56 is a program for kids who feel like they are too old to participate in Vacation Bible School.
- In 2006 the Children's Penny Jar inspired the congregation at **Morning Star Lutheran in Monroe** to provide offerings of $5,000 to purchase an entire ARK of animals for the poor. In addition, the congregation purchased 400 lbs of food for the Sky Valley food bank with their pennies and a match from a local businesses.
- Many congregations in the Renton area have banded together to create housing for homeless men in their midst. During the month of March **Lakeridge Lutheran in Renton** hosted up to 30 men each evening. Several cluster congregations help to provide a hot meal for the men each evening. **Lord of Life Lutheran in Renton** was responsible for cooking and serving two meals a week. Congregations also worked together to provide sack lunches and breakfast.
- Members of **Fir Conway Lutheran in Fir Conway** gave $1560 to the Synod's authorized worshipping community in Skagit County called ***El Camino de Emaus.***
- Congratulations to **John Shoup, son of the Rev. Paul and DiAnne Shoup of Camano Island,** for his recent induction in the PLU Hall of Fame. John is a 1987 graduate of PLU and still holds one of the many records that he set at PLU for the 200 yard butterfly swim. He is the High School Principal in Woodland, Washington and president of his Lutheran congregation in Vancouver.

# Within Our Family



To Keep In Our Prayers...

**We continue to hold in our prayers:**

- † **The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
- † **The Rev. Ed Kasten (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

**We pray for:**

† **Diane Jacobson, wife of the Rev. Stan Jacobson,** pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Everson, suffered a mild heart. Cards may be sent to: Immanuel Lutheran Church; 5782 Lawrence Road; Everson WA 98247.

† **The Rev. Robert Rismiller (ret.)** continues to recover from an infection. Cards may be sent to: The Rev. Robert and Lucile Rismiller; 10901 – 176 Circle NE; Redmond, WA 98052.

† **Mary Finlayson, mother of DeDe Boerger and mother-in-law of Bishop Chris Boerger,** passed away on March 26. Peace to her memory.

† **The Rev. Howard Gravrock (ret.), father of the Rev. Dr. Mark Gravrock** at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah, passed away on March 25 in Minn. He is survived by his wife, Doris. Peace to his memory.

† **Wally Hustad, brother the Rev. Jack Hustad (ret.)** passed away in California on March 26. Wally lived out his calling as a mission developer in Pennsylvania. If you would like to honor Wally's life, the family suggests a memorial gift to Northwest Washington Synod Mission Development. Cards may be sent to: The Rev. Jack and Helen Hustad; 1600 Horizon Place; Mukilteo WA 98275. Peace to his memory.

† The mother of **the Rev. Joel Ingebritson, pastor at Bethlehem in Seattle,** passed away on March 29. Cards may be sent to: Rev. Joel and Paula Ingebritson; Bethlehem Lutheran Church; 3818 S Angeline; Seattle, WA 98118. Peace to her memory.

† **The Rev. John Darrah (ret.)** passed away on March 30 at Evergreen Hospital. John is survived by his wife, Ruth. Darrah was born in Marquette, Kan, on May 17, 1915. He attended Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan, (1934-1937) and Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island (1937-1941). He served in parishes in Minnnesota, Washington (Magnolia Lutheran in Seattle from 1949-1970) and California. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ruth. A memorial service was held at Gethsemane Lutheran in Seattle on April 15. Cards may be sent to: Ruth Darrah; 6720 E Greenlake Way N. Apt 835; Seattle, WA 98103. Peace to his memory.

***Within Our Family*** depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997. This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

## Reaching Out To Others

In 2006 Lutheran World Relief (LWR) sent more than 310,858 quilts; 147,805 school kits; 134,580 health kits; 24,750 sewing kits; and 44,200 layettes to countries all around the world. The country that received the most quilts was Sierra Leone; the most school kits was Uganda; the most health kits was Sierra Leone and Uganda; the most sewing kits was Malawi; and the most layettes again was Uganda and Sierra Leone.

The Seattle Fall Ingathering collected 6,160 quilts, 6,554 school kits, 2,326 health kits and 463 sewing kits. Thank you to everyone who helps to make this ministry possible.

The Spring 2007 Ingathering will take place on May 4 and 5 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran, NW 85th and 25th Ave NW, Seattle. Contact person is Rich Mathes, richmathes@aol.com or 206-633-5759.

## Video Resources

### In The Resource Center

To reserve videos, contact Region 1 at 206-624-0093, ext. 100

**36 Parables**—For nearly 2000 years, the parables of Christ have instructed and inspired. Now these powerful stories are retold for today's audiences. Each DVD contains short films (5-10 minutes per parable) depicting three beloved parables in modern settings and situations. Special features include background documentaries and Scripture related to each parable. Free study guides are available by clicking the Study Guides link at www.ecufilm.org. Each DVD of three parables is identified by a color:

- **Yellow—D-86:** The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), The talents (Matthew 25:14-30) and The lost coin (Luke 15-8-10)
- **Purple—D-87**: The friend at midnight (Luke 11:5-8), The shrewd manager (Luke 16:1-13) The barren fig tree (Luke 13:6-9),
- **Cyan—D-88:** The rich fool (Luke 12:16-21), The new wine in old wineskins (Luke 5:34-39) and The two sons (Matthew 21:28-32).

### Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

| | Location/Event | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|
| **Calls Accepted** | | |
| Ryan Alexander | Grace, Des Moines | 3/1/2007 |
| Mark Bankson | Our Saviour's, Stanwood | 6/15/2007 |
| Mark Peterson | Faith, Redmond | 6/1/2007 |
| Jack Richards | Prince of Peace, Everett | 6/1/2007 |
| **Installation** | | |
| Joel Lohafer | Hope, Lynden | 3/25/2007 |
| **Death** | | |
| John B Darrah | Kirkland, Washington | 3/30/2007 |

*Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.*

*(Transitions can be found on page 14.)*

## Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

| In Call Process | Position | Status | Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edmonds, Edmonds | PR | C | Katheryn Schlechter, and Dorcas Wang, Co-Interim Pastors |
| Everett, Faith | PR | TR | Dick Wendt, Interim |
| Everett, Trinity | PR | TR | Chris Anderson, Interim |
| Everett, Zion | PR | TR | Stuart Lundahl, Interim |
| Issaquah, Our Savior | A/SP | NV | Larry Thomas, Lead Pastor |
| Kirkland, Holy Spirit | A | TR | Mike Anderson, Lead Pastor; Kathryn Buffum, Interim |
| Maple Valley, Shepherd of the Valley | PR | TR | Elwood Carlson, Interim |
| Mercer Island, Holy Trinity | PR | TR | Paul Fauske, Co-Pastor; Kathleen Anderson, Interim Co-pastor |
| Point Roberts, Trinity | PR | TR | Supply |
| Renton, St. Matthew | A/SP | P | Kirby Unti, Lead Pastor |
| SeaTac, Prince of Peace | PR | TR | Martha Myers, Interim; Conrad Tollefson, Pastor |
| Seattle, Calvary | PR | TR | Supply |
| Seattle, Luther Memorial | PR | TR | Karen Hanson, Interim |
| Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood | PR | P | Supply |
| Shoreline, First Richmond Beach | PR | P | Maynard Atik, Interim |
| Stanwood, Freeborn | PR | TR | Supply |
| Woodinville, Wooden Cross | PR | TR | Tim Wolbrecht, Interim |

**Mobility Position Key:**

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

**Mobility Status Key:**

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

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Northwest Washington Synod
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*Soundings*
*May 2007*